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Noted by BCI

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*Malenkov*  
*Alief*

Stalin's Death on 5 March put Malenkov on a Spot:

The Doctors' Plot was revealed on 13 January 1953. The nine implicated doctors were accused of having murdered Scherbakov in 1945 and Zhdanov in August 1948. These murders occurred while Beria himself and later Abakumov, his lieutenant, ran the MGB. Further intended victims of the plot included most of the top Army Marshals and Generals and one Navy Admiral. Beria thus was indirectly accused of abetting through negligence deaths of key Party and (to come) Army figures.

A vigilance campaign ensued during January and February, supported by Stalin in a statement that complacent unvigilant Party members should be expelled. Beria was notably silent during this period.

The Kremlin Medical Directorate was replaced on or about 14 February. Its head, Yegorov, was replaced by I. I. Kuperin of the MGB Health Directorate (i.e. under Ignatiev who took over the MGB from Abakumov in July or August 1951). The Minister of Health, Smirnov, was replaced by A. F. Tretyakov. Lydia Timashuk, said to be the wife of one of the accused, M. B. Kogan, was decorated with the Order of Lenin on 20 January for her part in exposing the plot.

Stalin's illness, from 1 March on, placed him under the care of Kuperin and perhaps Tretyakov, as well. In the case of Kuperin, the MGB was directly involved and through this, Ignatiev, and through him, Malenkov. This may account for the numerous and prompt releases as to the state of Stalin's health during his illness.

Stalin died on 5 March before a public show-trial of the nine doctors had been held; evidence of MGB negligence (before Ignatiev took it over) was presumably to be introduced which might have reflected adversely on Beria.

Malenkov "fell or was pushed" from the post of First Secretary of the Central Committee's Secretariat at the meeting of the full Central Committee on 14 March. Between 6 and 12 March Malenkov was referred to in the Soviet press as Secretary of the Central Committee. Khrushchev succeeded him in that position in the listing of the Secretariat members issued on 20 March. It is notable that the composition of the Secretariat was not presented to the Supreme Soviet session on 15 March. Since that date Malenkov has not issued any statements, signed any pronouncements, made any speeches or made a personal appearance. He did not sign the amnesty decree of 28 March issued by the Presidium of which he is a member.

The reversal of the Doctors' Plot has resulted in the expulsion of Ignatiev from the Secretariat on 7 April to which he was appointed on 6 March - his name is given last in the 20 March list, but led the list of those added on 6 March. He probably lost the MGB post when the MVD or MGB

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were consolidated under Beria in the governmental reorganization of 6 March. Lydia Timashuk was ordered stripped - of her Order of Lenin - on 7 April. Malenkov apparently is indirectly blamed for the falsity and violation of Soviet justice of the Doctors' Plot which allegedly was cooked up by one Ryumiu, Deputy to Ignatiev in the MGB.

JJH

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